

Remarks/Arguments

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error in the second full paragraph on page 9, which was noted upon review of the application. This is consistent with Fig. 7 of the application wherein an electron path is shown hitting the central dynode first after emission from the photocathode.

Responsive to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, a certified copy of the United Kingdom patent application no. 0029382.9 is enclosed to complete applicants' claim for priority under 35 USC 119.

Regarding paragraph 3 of the Office Action the dictionary definition of "principal", i.e. a main or most important element, confirms that its use in Claim 5 is correct.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 9, 12 and 14 under 35 USC 112, claim 9 has been amended to replace "disc-like" with -- substantially disc-shaped --.

The allowance of claims 5 and 11 and the provisional allowance of claims 9, 12 and 14 is acknowledged with appreciation. Claims 5, 9 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 23, 24 and 25 respectively, with claims 12 and 14 amended to depend upon claim 24. The § 112 matter regarding claim 9 is believed to be resolved. Favorable action on new claims 23-25 is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 10 under 35 USC 102 based on Ito et al. is respectfully requested for the

following reasons. Claim 1 of the instant application calls for the dynodes being arcuate in extent about a common axis.

Looking at Fig. 1 of Ito et al. it is seen that while the dynodes are distributed about an axis in the centre of the cathodes, there is no common axis about which the dynodes are arcuate. Furthermore, the dynode cascades in the Ito et al. device also require accurate alignment (e.g. by special-to-product jigs and tools), whereas the arrangement of arcuate dynodes around a common axis according to applicants' invention may result in simpler manufacture, assembly and alignment.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-4 and 10 are believed to patentably distinguish over Ito et al. within the meaning of 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 6-8 and 10 under 35 USC 102 based on Okano et al. is respectfully requested for the following reasons. Okano et al. are concerned with obtaining a good reflection made alkali photocathode by controlling a deposition weight of antimony. Thus Okano et al. are concerned with an entirely different problem than that to which applicants' invention is addressed as explained on pages 1 and 2 of the instant application. Neither Fig. 6 nor the passage of Okano et al. referenced by the Examiner nor anything else in the Okano et al specification or drawings appears to disclose successive dynodes being disposed so that the cascade extends radially relative to the common axis of the dynodes in the manner claimed by applicants.

Accordingly, claims 1, 6-8 and 10 are believed to patentably distinguish over Okano et al. within the meaning of 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103.

The rejections of claims 13 and 15 under 35 USC 103 based on Ito et al. and Kimura et al., of claims 13 and 15 under 35 USC 103 based on Okano et al. and Kimura et al. and of claim 16 under 35 USC 103 based on Ito et al. in view of Boetz et al. are respectfully traversed. Dependent claims 13, 15 and 16 include all the limitations of claim 1 which for the reasons given above is believed to patentably distinguish over Ito et al. and Okano et al. Neither Kimura et al. nor Boetz et al. are considered to disclose anything having a bearing on the reasons why claim 1 is believed to patentably distinguish over Ito et al. and Okano et al. Accordingly, claims 13, 15 and 16 are believed to patentably distinguish over Ito et al., Okano et al., Kimura et al. and Boetz et al. within the meaning of 35 USC 103.

Favorable action on this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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